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Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

South Africa: draft resolution**

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 60/195 of 22 December 2005, 64/200 of 21 December 2009, 65/157 of 20 December 2010, 66/199 of 22 December 2011, 67/209 of 21 December 2012 and 68/211 of 20 December 2013, 69/219 of 19 December 2014 and 69/283 and 69/284 of 3 June 2015, and taking into consideration all other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[1] in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] Agenda 21,[3] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[4] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[6]

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** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

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Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", recognizing that it builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete their unfinished business, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda, which has poverty eradication at its core and aims at promoting the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling that this new Agenda recognizes the importance of promoting resilience and disaster risk reduction for sustainable development,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,

Recalling that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, inter alia, seeks to develop and implement holistic disaster risk management at all levels in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,[7]

Welcoming the Sendai Declaration[8] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Japan for hosting the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, from 14 to 18 March 2015, and to Member States that provided all the necessary support,

Recognizing that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 emphasizes disaster risk management, particularly improving, as adequate, understanding of disaster risk, strengthening risk governance to better manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Expressing deep concern at the number, increasing frequency and scale of disasters and their devastating impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular in developing countries,

Underscoring climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk and that addressing climate change represents an opportunity to reduce disaster risk in a meaningful and coherent manner throughout the interrelated intergovernmental processes, while respecting the mandate of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Expressing its concern with regard to forecasts that the world could be on the verge of the strongest El Niño phenomenon in recorded history, which would involve extreme temperature variations, floods and droughts worldwide that would particularly affect people in vulnerable situations,

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[7] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[8] Ibid., annex I.

Recognizing that disaster-prone developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and disaster risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters, and recognizing also that similar attention and appropriate assistance should be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines,

Noting the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and that one of its themes is "Reducing vulnerability and managing risk" in the context of disaster risk reduction,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that observer States be taken into account in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 69/219;[9]

2. *Calls upon* the international community to fully implement the commitments in the Sendai Declaration[8] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;[7]

3. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction as a cross-cutting issue of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10] directly and indirectly reflected across the outcome document;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, and encourages Member States and observer States and the relevant United Nations bodies to take into consideration the important role of coordinated disaster risk reduction activities for, inter alia, the achievement of sustainable development;

5. *Reiterates* its strong encouragement of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as applicable, across policies, institutions, goals, indicators and measurement systems for implementation, between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda[11] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as well as the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, while respecting the respective mandates, in order to build synergies and resilience, and achieving the global goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty;

6. *Calls for* the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries;

7. *Also calls for* preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social,

[9] A/70/282.
[10] Resolution 70/1.
[11] Resolution 69/313.

health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience;

8. *Recognizes* the need for focused action within and across sectors by States at the local, national, regional and global levels in the four priority areas, namely understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

9. *Reaffirms* the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters, weather-related hazards and the adverse effects of climate change, including the El Niño phenomenon, to prevent major damage and ensure an adequate response and attention to the affected populations in a timely manner in order to ensure resilience to their impacts;

10. *Recognizes* that, while States have overall responsibility and a fundamental role, reducing disaster risk is a shared effort between Governments and relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations;

11. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need, as adequate, for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, youth and children, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples, local communities, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media in all relevant forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction;

12. *Looks forward* to deliberations of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the thematic platforms in order to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues, as appropriate, as well as to promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors; regional intergovernmental organizations should play an important role in the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction;

13. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Secretary-General that underlines the need, over the next three years, to carry out a stocktaking of disaster risk management practices and give adequate priority to the assessment of disaster risk and the development of baselines to assess disaster risk trends;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of giving priority to the development of local and national disaster risk reduction capacity-building, policies, strategies and plans over the next five years with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, in accordance with national practices and legislation;

15. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Secretary-General that underlines the need to give due consideration to the establishment or strengthening of national mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, such as national platforms for disaster risk reduction, in the light of their characteristics indicated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to provide technical expertise and support to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries, given the scale of action needed with respect to national disaster loss databases for accelerated implementation of these priority actions;

17. *Welcomes* the commencement of the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction, and looks forward to its outcomes, coherent with the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators;

18. *Decides* to include the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the updated monitoring tool based on the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor;

19. *Reaffirms* that developing countries need enhanced provision of coordinated, sustained and adequate international support for disaster risk reduction, through bilateral and multilateral channels, including through enhanced technical and financial support and technology transfer on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, for the development and strengthening of their capacities; and the need to enhance access of States, in particular developing countries, to finance, environmentally sound technology, science and inclusive innovation, as well as knowledge and information sharing through existing mechanisms; to promote the use and expansion of thematic platforms of cooperation, to share know-how, innovation and research and ensure access to technology and information on disaster risk reduction; and to incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes within and across all sectors, as appropriate, related to poverty reduction, sustainable development, natural resource management, the environment, urban development and adaptation to climate change;

20. *Requests* the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;

21. *Acknowledges* the importance of the work of the United Nations in disaster risk reduction, the growing demands on the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for increased, timely, stable and predictable financial and non-financial resources for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate resources from the United Nations programme budget for the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction;

23. *Encourages* States to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction;

24. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to include observer States in the implementation of the present resolution;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Disaster risk reduction";

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.